*****This Examiner's Amendment replaces the previous Examiner's Amendment dated December 10, 2008.*****

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Joshua Povsner (Reg. No. 42,086) on January 14, 2009.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- As to claim 1 (line 8), the claim limitation *"the interface"* will be replaced with *"an interface"*.
- As to claim 8, (lines 10-11), the claim limitation *"the interface"* will be replaced with *"an interface"*.
- As to claim 14 (lines 11-12), the claim limitation *"the interface"* will be replaced with *"an interface"*.

- As to the specification, Par. 0001 has been amended as follows:

[0001] The present application is related to ~~a U.S. patent application having attorney docket number P24392 in the names of K. LIU et al., filed on Nov. 12, 2003~~ U.S. Patent No. 7,450,592, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The present invention is directed to a multi-service platform and a method employed in the multi-service platform performing re-routing of traffic in the event of a failure. Specific functions are detailed below and each independent claim identifies uniquely distinct features/steps:

Claim 1 shows:

A multi service platform, comprising:

a layer two switching component for terminating a layer two network having a plurality of layer two switches;

a layer three switching component; and

a physical loopback connecting the layer two switching component and the layer three switching component,

wherein layer two capabilities and layer three capabilities are integrated together to re-route a circuit through the physical loopback, if there is a failure in an interface between a one of the layer two switches and the multi-service platform;

wherein in the event of failure, the layer two switching component forwards traffic via the loopback to the layer three switching component, which performs a look up to determine the destination of the traffic, and the traffic is returned to the layer two switching component and routed to its destination via a different layer two switch.

Claim 8 shows:

A network, comprising:

a plurality of layer two switches;

at least one platform including a layer two switching component for terminating a layer two network;

a layer three switching component and a physical loopback between the layer two switching component and the layer three switching component; and

at least one connection between one of the layer two switches, which communicates with a customer edge device, and the layer two switching component of the platform, wherein a failure of the connection, which extends to the platform, is protected by layer two network failure restoration by re-routing a circuit through the physical loopback, if there is a failure in an interface between a layer two switch and the platform;

wherein in the event of failure, the layer two switching component forwards traffic via the physical loopback to the laver three switching component, which performs

a look up to determine the destination of the traffic, and the traffic is returned to the layer two switching component and routed to its destination via a different laver two switch.

Claim 14 shows:

A method for rowing traffic across a layer two network having layer three rowing capabilities, comprising:

routing traffic from a customer across the layer two network to a layer two switching component in a platform;

routing traffic from the layer two switching component across a physical loopback to a layer three switching component in the platform;

performing a look up of a destination of the traffic;

determining, at the layer three switching component, where to route the traffic;

returning the traffic to the layer two switching component; and forwarding the traffic to a destination based upon the determined route;

wherein a circuit is re-routed through the physical loopback, if there is a failure in an interface between a layer two switch and the platform.

One of the prior art, Pazy et al. (US 6,614,792 B1; hereinafter Pazy) discloses a Proxy Multi-protocol over ATM (MPOA) Client interconnects Emulated LANs (ELANs) across an ATM network (abstract; Figure 7). The Proxy MPC of Pazy includes layer 2 and layer 3 components which directs traffic coming from a Legacy ELAN through a physical loopback (i.e. cable) 226 to an MPOA ELAN. However, Pazy fails to disclose the occurrence of a failure and

the specific re-routing/forwarding of traffic disclosed in the independent claims of the application.

Another prior art, Jung (US 7,333,427 B2; hereinafter Jung) discloses a router system (Figure 2) that includes a routing controller, data interface 121-124 (claimed layer 2 components), forwarding engines 111-114 (claimed layer 3 components) and a data bus 130 (claimed physical loopback). The router system of Jung utilizes redundant/secondary forwarding engines. In a situation where a forwarding engine fails, another forwarding engine will be utilized in place of the failed forwarding engine. Though, Jung shows re-routing/forwarding of the traffic to another forwarding engine, Jung does not show re-routing/forwarding of traffic onto the same layer 2 component as specifically claimed in the independent claims.

However, either singularly or in combination, the prior art(s) fails to anticipate or render the above features of the application obvious. Furthermore, as also shown in the independent claims above, the independent claims have set forth specific steps/details in forwarding traffic from the layer two switching component through the physical loopback to the layer three component, which in turn, performs a lookup to determine the destination of the traffic, and then returning the traffic to the layer two switching component for routing of the traffic.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to REDENTOR M. PASIA whose telephone number is (571)272-9745. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am to 4:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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